

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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P 230735Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8697

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 16984

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, FR

SUBJECT: SIHANOUK STATEMENT ON MARTINIQUE COMMUNIQUE

REF: FBIS REPORT OF HONG KONG AFP IN ENGLISH 1417 GMT

21 DEC 74

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED). EMBASSY WISHES TO CALL DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO ABOVE ITEM, WHICH CONTAINS THE GIST OF A SIHANOUK COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN PEKING ON DEC. 21. FOLLOWING THE USUAL SIHANOUK EXTRAVAGANCES, I.E., COMPARING HIMSELF TO DE GAULLE IN LONDON IN 1940 AND LON NOL, NOT TO PETAIN, BUT TO LAVAL, THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS ADDITIONAL INTERESTING MATERIAL.

2. SIHANOUK SAID THAT IT WAS AN INACCEPTABLE ACT OF INJUSTICE TO PLACE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING THE "SUPER-TRAITOROUS LON NON CLIQUE" AND THE GRUNK.

3. "AN ACT OF GOOD SENSE WOULD BE FOR FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES TO INVITE THE WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT--THE AGGRESSOR AGAINST THE CAMBODIAN KINGDOM--TO NEGOTIATE PEACE AND THE RETURN OF TOTAL INDEPENDENCE TO CAMBODIA, WITH THE GRUNK THE LEGAL AND UNIQUE REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIA."

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4. SIHANOUK IS REPORTED TO HAVE ADDED THAT HE RECENTLY INFORMED FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO PEKING ETIENNE MANAC'H THAT THE GRUNK, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE A CAMBODIAN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, WAS READY TO GRANT AMNESTY AND TO INTEGRATE WITHIN ITS OWN RANKS "THOSE TRAITORS" WILLING TO RALLY TO THE GRUNK SIDE "TO REBUILD WITH US A FREE, DEMOCRATIC, NON-ALIGNED, PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS CAMBODIA." (END UNCLASSIFIED).

5. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL). COMMENT: IN LAST COUPLE OF STATEMENTS BY SIHANOUK, WE HAVE NOTED DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN SUPER-TRAITORS(PRESUMABLY LON NOL) AND ORDINARY RUN-OF-THE-MILL TRAITORS (THE LATTER ACCORDING TO PARA 4 BEING SALVAGEABLE). ABOVE ALL, LANGUAGE IN PARA 3 APPEARS TO BE CLEARCUT SIGNAL OF A WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE U.S. STATEMENT ALSO APPEARS TO BE LESS VITRIOLIC COMPARED TO SIHANOUK'S PREVIOUS DIATRIBES. (END CONFIDENTIAL).

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